

IN THE CLAIMS

11. (amended) A process for increasing the concentration of HDL cholesterol in the blood of a mammal whose blood contains cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) that comprises the steps of:

(a) immunizing said mammal with an inoculum containing a vehicle in which is dissolved or dispersed a CETP immunogen that is a fusion protein of (i) an exogenous antigenic carrier polypeptide that is peptide-bonded to the amino-terminus, carboxy-terminus, or both of (ii) an immunogenic polypeptide having a CETP amino acid residue sequence;

(b) maintaining said mammal for a time period sufficient for said immunogenic polypeptide to induce the production of antibodies that bind to CETP and lessen the transfer of cholesteryl esters from HDL; and

(c) repeating said immunizing step until the HDL cholesterol value in the blood of said mammal is increased relative to the HDL cholesterol value prior to said first immunization step.